

Application Serial No. 10/589,478

OT-5168

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Applicants thank the Examiner for the remarks and analysis contained in the Office Action and especially for the positive indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3 and 4. By way of this Amendment, claims 1 and 3-8 have been amended and claims 2 and 9 has been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-8 and 10 remain pending for further consideration.

1. Initial Notification to the Examiner

It appears that the Examiner's comments in the Office Action were directed to the claims of the originally published PCT application instead of the claims, as amended, in the Preliminary Amendment filed with the entry into the U.S. National Stage on August 14, 2006. For example, the Examiner objected to claim 1 for reciting "of the kind" in line 2 thereof. It is respectfully noted that the "of the kind" recitation was deleted in the Preliminary Amendment. Other similar issues were also previously addressed in the Preliminary Amendment and, therefore, the claims as amended herein are amended from the version previously set for the Preliminary Amendment.

2. Objection to Claim 9

The Examiner objected to claim 9, which has been cancelled herein, without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, a withdrawal of this objection is both warranted and earnestly solicited.

3. Rejections of Claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶2

Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶2, the Examiner rejected: (a) claims 1-3, 5, and 9 for various antecedent basis issues; (b) claims 1 and 3 for respectively reciting "of the kind" and "generally"; and (c) claims 5 and 7 for reciting pronouns such as "its." As previously mentioned, some of the concerns raised by the Examiner were previously addressed in the Preliminary Amendment. With respect to the Examiner's concerns that were not previously addressed, it is respectfully submitted that such concerns have been fully obviated by way of the amendments made herein to the claims. Accordingly, a withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

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4. Rejections of Claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶1

Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶1, the Examiner rejected claims 7-10 as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement based on a misunderstanding of the previously recited "two upper and lower connecting rods." The Examiner's concern, which related to an interpretation of the quoted language as meaning "two upper rods and two lower rods," has been obviated by way of the amendments made herein to claim 7 (*i.e.*, the claim from which claims 8 and 10 depend). Accordingly, a withdrawal of this rejection is also respectfully requested.

5. Rejection of Claims 1, 2, and 5-10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, and 5-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,947,964 ("Husmann"). Preliminarily, as claims 2 and 9 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, this rejection will be addressed and respectfully traversed with respect to pending claims 1, 5-8, and 10.

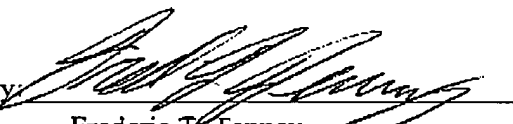
As amended herein, claim 1 (*i.e.*, the claim from which claims 3-8 and 10 depend) essentially recites the previous limitations of claim 3, which the Examiner previously indicated contained allowable subject matter. As a result, Applicants believe that Husmann is inapplicable to the patentable features recited in claim 1, and each of its dependent claims. Therefore, a withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 5-8, and 10 under § 103(a) is both warranted and earnestly solicited.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, claims 1, 3-8 and 10 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will be useful to move this case forward toward issue, Applicant's representative will be happy to discuss any issues regarding this application and can be contacted at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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